

Rebates: YOU will pay!

Some members of Mississauga Council are considering giving rebates to voters who donate money to councillor election campaigns.

Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG), producer of Tough Times, plans to speak against the idea at a Governance Committee meeting at Mississauga Civic Centre at 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 12, 2013.

Here are some facts about political donation rebates, most of them reported by City staff at councillors' request:

In the 2010 municipal election in Mississauga, 143,501 eligible voters cast ballots, a 34.34% turnout. If every eligible person had voted, about 432,000 voters would have trooped to the polls.

Does a rebate program improve voter turnout? In 2010, Whitby and Markham had rebate programs in place, and a turnout above 30%, similar to rebate-free Mississauga. Rebate municipalities Vaughan and Oakville reached 40%, and Toronto just over 50%.

Councillors could choose whether to take advantage of the rebate program or not. In Markham, 95% of councillors used it, with Vaughan only two percentage points behind, Oakville was next at 63%, Ajax at 57%, Toronto at 55%, and Whitby at 16%.

(Turn to page 11).



While 13,000 people are on Peel's waiting lists for homes that they can afford, various schemes are in the planning stage that may help a very few. But no organization in Peel is prepared to give that long wait list a tug that will get it moving.

Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG), producer of Tough Times, takes the position that only real estate developers can solve Peel's housing problems – they have the skills, the tools, the know-how, and in many cases they own the land.

They also contribute to city councillors' election campaign funds.

PPAG would like to save them that money, so they could spend it on providing more social housing, more affordable housing.

That is why PPAG is seeking a ban on corporate and union donations to municipal election campaign funds.

PPAG also hopes that councillors would work even harder to persuade corporations that a happily housed population is good business, making for a healthier, safer, and more attractive city.

Do corporate donors tend to support incumbent council members? Examination of donations suggest that they do. Peel's Regional Diversity Roundtable recently launched a Charter aimed at ensuring that diversity in all its aspects is promoted and protected in our region (*see page 8*). But while half of Peel residents are considered racialized, only one councillor of colour is among 32 council members.

Check Rebates on left. Cheaper housing on page 6.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Letters to the editor	2
Cash-free shopping	3
Declutter your mind	3
The poverty industry	4
Interest-free mortgages	6
Peel comes together with labour	7
On-again, off-again non jobs	8
We're all diverse together	8
Words from the street	10
A wage you can live on	11

Letters to the editor

Tough Times welcomes letters from readers. Writers may use a pen name if they wish. Tough Times needs to know who you are, so include a phone number and address, but your identity will not be revealed without your permission. Letters may be edited. Email your letters to toughtimestabloid@gmail.com or deliver to Knights Table, Brampton.

Help the seniors



On January 3, 2013 I was discharged from Credit Valley Hospital after surgery. I was told that Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) would be in to change my dressing and help me shower. When I arrived home I called CCAC and was informed that they do not help with showers any more. I received a return phone call a while after and was informed that I was too well for them to come to my house. That I was to come to their clinic and they gave me their address. I asked: "What if I did not have a car or was unable to drive." I was told to find someone to drive me. Then I asked: "What if I couldn't find someone to do this?" They suggested I take a cab, my comment was "What if I do not have the money?" They insinuated it was not their concern. Needless to say, I did not get any help, nor did I go to their clinic. Exactly what is the government doing for their Seniors?

*Darlene J Morris
76-years-old, Mississauga*

Bravo Edna and gang!

We received your Tough Times and they are just fantastic. Your own vehicle for mobilizing and spreading the news about workers' victories and struggles. Kudos to you all for getting it off the ground!

We have members in the Peel area who do speak out about Wage Theft and we'd like to let people know what they can do about it.

*Karen Dick
Workers' Action Centre
720 Spadina Avenue, suite 223
Toronto, ON, M5S 2T9
416-531-0778 ext 225*

Any decent jobs?

The Workers monument is a fine tribute to lives lost on the job. Unfortunately over the last decade, despite government rhetoric, people are being pushed to work faster and harder, especially in work places which have no union representation.

In fact it has become almost impossible to find a job in which a person doesn't have to go through one of the many American-owned temporary agencies.

There are no benefits, the wages are atrociously low and the person can be let go at any time without any severance. I know, because I've worked for enough of them over the years.

I've often wondered if the situation of agencies couldn't be looked into in some manner. They must be making tons of money off the backs of people who need to work.

Paul Roberts

Eliminating poverty

With respect to Esther Kingsley's article, 'Poverty Conference: Short-Sighted, Dishonest, Doing Very Little', Bravo, Ms. Kingsley!

To fight poverty without trying to remove its cause – the ownership of the tools of production by a small minority – is self-defeating.

You folks, however well-meaning, aren't even trying to eliminate poverty within capitalism, as impossible as that is, but are attempting merely to reduce it.

Though Ms. Kingsley's analysis is clear and brilliant, I take issue with her exposition of tactics: "We need leaders who can wake people up..." and "We also need social architects who know how to design societies to meet the basic needs of all human beings..."

Only a society based on common ownership and control of the means of production can solve the problems facing humanity. They will not need leaders, because they won't need to be told what to think and do.

Check out www.worldsocialism.org/Canada

Steve Shannon

The Meadowvale Neighbour's Cafe



My name is David and I read your article - 'Soup kitchen for Mississauga'.

Here is another place for you: The Meadowvale Neighbour's Cafe. This is in Meadowvale in the upstairs of the Eden United Church on the north-west corner of Winston Churchill Blvd. and Battleford Road.

It is open Mondays only from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. - a light lunch, sandwiches, fruit, coffee are available as well as a food bank in the basement on the same day.

David

Blush-making

It was a pleasure to be part of the Peel Poverty Action Group meeting. Public awareness that poverty exists in Peel is needed. The Tough Times paper is a great source to educate the public and is a great resource for those in need of information.

Jo'Anne Guay

ToughTimes

Tough Times is published quarterly.

Next issue: Fall, 2013
Deadline for ads and editorial:
August 15, 2013.

We encourage and welcome volunteer writers, reporters, artists, cartoonists, photographers, distributors and sales folk to join Tough Times.

Please email letters to:
toughtimestabloid@gmail.com

Produced by:
Peel Poverty Action Group (PPAG)

Editor:
Edna Toth

Associate Editor:
Ryan Gurcharn

Graphic Designer:
Dalia Emam

Contributors: (alphabetically by last name)
Simon Black, Dalia Emam,
Todd Foster, Ryan Gurcharn,
Esther Kingsley, Michel Revelin,
Motillal Sarjoo, Sharon Sohal,
Cheryl Yarek.

Printed by: Metroland Media Group Ltd.

Advertising Rates

Tough Times has a minimum press run of 10,000 copies, distributed throughout Peel Region.

Target audience is people experiencing homelessness, using foodbanks and soup kitchens, people who are struggling, plus faith groups, social service agencies, trades unions, business people, and the general public.

To advertise in The Tough Times:
email:

toughtimestabloid@gmail.com
Phone: 905 826-5041
Mail address: 287 Glidden Road, #4
Brampton ON L6W 1H9, Canada

Advertising rates: (sales tax extra)

Business card: \$60
1/16 page: \$70
1/8 page: \$100
1/4 page: \$170
1/2 page: \$340
3/4 page: \$480
Full page: \$620

A full page is approximately 10 inches wide by 12 inches deep = 120 square inches.
Colour \$35 extra | E&OE

Advertisements

LICENSE TO COOK

"The Meal Experience People"

1105 Queen Street East,
P.O. Box 2607,
Brampton, ON L6T 5M5

For FREE Estimate please call
Bus: 905-457-3611 x 228
www.stleonardsplace.com

Cash-free shopping



Volunteers Judy Gervais and Mercy Ng sort the supplies at The Compass' Market. Users spend a dollar value at the market, the amount determined every month, they can shop at any time, though limited to once a week, and choose the goods they want from whatever is on the shelves. It's different to most food bank operations, where volunteers hand out boxes of goods which may contain items the recipients don't want. (Tough Times photo)

It's called The Market, and users know they can spend a certain amount there every month - but they don't need cash.

The Compass, a helping agency at 310 Lakeshore Road West, Port Credit, provides a safe place for cash-poor folk to meet and chat, have a snack, a coffee.

And visitors can obtain food to take home at no cost.

The Compass has its own method of distributing goods.

Individuals or families in need are assigned a certain number of dollars each month, which they can spend on food, toiletries, and other essentials at The Market. They shop once a week, (The Market is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday) selecting whatever they want, and "paying" for it from their allowance.

Says Market manager Trish Trapani: "Compass shoppers choose for their family, within a budget. We believe choice maintains dignity."

The Compass' Market receives about 40% of its food supplies from the Mississauga Food Bank, the rest by arrangement with local stores ensuring fresh milk and fresh veggies including organic foods, supplemented by help from local churches and individuals.

Food, chats, and coffee are just a few of the services at The Compass. Also on the go: computer classes, a lunch program on Tuesdays, discussions of life skills, visits from Ontario Works staff, a cooking class.

Christian prayers are frequent. The Compass was founded by six churches 11 years ago. Now 16 churches are involved. Plus an entire community.

ABOUT PEEL POVERTY ACTION GROUP

Peel Poverty Action Group is open to every individual and organization in Peel Region that cares about what poverty does to people.

It provides a safe place where people who are cash-poor and those who try to help them are encouraged to speak out.-- and The Tough Times is part of that safe place.

The Group's mandate is to advocate for people in need and to educate the public about poverty issues.

Membership is free. Meetings take place at 9.15 a.m. the second Wednesday of every month, alternately in Mississauga or Brampton.

Contact ppagactiongroup@gmail.com to be added to the email list.

A LITTLE EMBRACE GOES A LONG WAY: Talk! Declutter your mind

BY DALIA EMAM

Embrace Women Services wants to build communities of women who are confident, fulfilled and purpose driven, with the common goal of cultivating healthier families and communities.

Mississauga resident Jackie Nugent, founder of Embrace in 2004, told women at a recent panel discussion that negative thoughts must change to positive ones, and women must "continuously declutter our minds."

"The more you give in to your negative thoughts, the stronger they become. But a small positive thought can have the same effect, blossoming into a beautiful outcome," she said.



Left: The Embrace Worship Team provided lively musical elements with different styles of music to enhance worship and boost attendees' morale. The team of musicians included Sami the singer, Bianca the guitarist, and Jazz the drummer. **Right:** Jackie Nugent, founder of Embrace Women Services (right) stressed the importance of having small positive thoughts during the panel discussion held recently in Mississauga by Embrace Women Services. (Photos by Dalia Emam)

Factors that put women down such as poverty, trauma, bitterness, stress or death should always be addressed and



faced by talking them out.

The group has established the Stewart Spirit Award, in honour of Susan Stewart,

1996 Canadian Women's Basketball Olympian and Mississauga Hall of Fame Athlete. Stewart suffered a devastating brain injury that affected her balance and speech. However, she demonstrated exceptional determination and has persevered beyond her illness. Today Susan coaches women's basketball and continues to serve her community generously despite her challenges.

Embrace invites the public to nominate for the Stewart award, women in the GTA who demonstrate a spirit of determination, resilience and community service.

For more information about Embrace phone 416-760-5858.

The poverty industry: WHO REALLY BENEFITS?

BY ESTHER KINGSLEY - a penname

In the science fiction movie Soylent Green, set in the year 2022, the economy and the natural environment are in crisis. The Government encourages poor people to seek early death to end their misery. What poor people (and the rest of the population) don't realize is that the Government takes their dead bodies to a processing plant and turns them into food chips – Soylent Green – then sells the chips to the rest of society as a good source of protein. This socially-engineered death and cannibalism is authorized by the Government, operated by the Soylent Corporation, and enforced by the Police.

There is a parallel between the Soylent Green story and how we treat the poor in Canada.

We know that our economic system produces unemployment and poverty for many and that poverty is a recipe for health problems and early death. What we are less aware of is how we have created a lucrative poverty industry to manage poverty complete with legislation, civil servants, organizations, social workers, researchers, academics, fundraisers, services, best practices, outcome measurements, books, reports, conferences, and more.

What is the poverty industry? It is the segment of our economy that provides goods and services for the management of poverty. It is an industry that we have created to serve the poor and eliminate poverty. In practice, it is an industry that benefits the middle class and provides corporate profits on the backs of the poor.

At the helm of the poverty industry in Canada is the government which is primarily responsible for poverty management. Civil servants - under the direction of politicians - create and manage legislation, income support programs, job training programs, and other approaches to poverty management. The minimum annual salary of a Canadian MP is \$162,200; average total compensation for a civil servant: \$114,000; for a single mother with a child 'on welfare': \$19,000.

The for-profit sector focuses on surveillance and incarceration of the poor. It develops systems (software, databases, tracking systems, etc.) so the government can monitor the poor and government spending on the poor. Privatization of jails - well established in the USA and slowly creeping into Canada - is a new source of income for corporations. Over 70% of the people in Canada's jails are poor. It costs approximately \$113,000 to keep a person in a Canadian jail for one year. The average annual income of Canadians is \$35,498.

The non-profit sector is Canada's specialist in poverty management. It gets money from government and private donors to provide services that are



Soylent Green is available on DVD from Mississauga and Brampton Libraries; Caledon Library has Make Room! Make Room! a novel by Harry Harrison which inspired Soylent Green.

difficult to provide for profit. It provides labour-intensive face-to-face services for the poor and the basics for survival: help in getting financial aid from government, finding a job and an affordable home; foodbanks, second-hand clothing stores, temporary shelters, personal counselling, etc. In Ontario alone, more than 9,000 non-profit organizations focus on community and social services. Although non-profit organizations also provide services to raise awareness about how to reduce and eliminate poverty, government and private funding for this 'social change' work is very limited.

Universities are the knowledge-gurus of the poverty industry. The government pays professors to study and teach about poverty and to travel to national and international conferences on poverty. Check the website of Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council to see the millions of dollars paid to academics to study poverty.

Here then is the mathematics of the poverty industry: 1. Poverty is a waste product of our capitalist economic system. 2. We have created an industry to manage this waste product. 3. The major beneficiaries of this poverty industry are the middle class and private corporations. 4. Therefore, the elimination of poverty is not in the interest of the poverty industry and our capitalist economy. At best, poverty reduction is acceptable provided that it is at a level that can support the continuation of the poverty industry.

**Minimum
annual salary of
a Canadian MP:
\$162,200;
for a single mother
with a child 'on
welfare': \$19,000.**

Not surprisingly, the performance of the poverty industry has been very poor. Between 1981 and 2010, Ontario, one of Canada's richest provinces, had the highest level of income inequality in Canada and the second largest increase in poverty rates, from 9.4% to 13.1%. Today, in Ontario, over 1,689,000 live in poverty; 393,000 children live in poverty; and 152,000 households are on a waiting list for affordable housing. That's a lot of customers for Ontario's poverty industry.

What are our options for poverty elimination in this Soylent Green scenario? How do we get out of this situation of social cannibalism where poor citizens become the raw material for the survival and prosperity of other citizens and private corporations? We have to start by going outside the poverty industry. Where is that?

Advertisement

better
Toronto the GOOD

**Home to hundreds of
shop your values social enterprises
www.TorontotheBetter.net
416-7076-3509**

**"Our Toronto Includes the GTA"
Proudly Unionized with the IWW**

Youth violence in Peel:

WHAT ROLE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE ORGANIZING?

BY SIMON BLACK

In the Region of Peel, youth 12 to 17 are about 8% of the population, but account for 22% of persons charged for violent offences and 18% charged with property offences in 2011. — from Mississauga Safe City Report 2011

In the Region of Peel in 2009, the number of emergency department visits for assaults were the highest among young males between the ages of 10 and 29 years. — from Peel Health

The Review of the Roots of Youth Violence report published by the provincial government in 2008 was a comprehensive look at the social and economic factors which have contributed to a rise in youth violence across the province and particularly in the Greater Toronto Area. In the report, University of Toronto criminologist Scott Wortley notes that while overall crime rates have remained relatively stable, severe violence is apparently becoming more and more concentrated among socially disadvantaged racialized youth. According to sources, in Peel Region one-third of all violent crime is now committed by youth. Most disturbingly, the report suggests that this general pattern of violence “may become more entrenched if current economic trends continue.” The report concludes that the roots of youth violence are often found in poor, socially deprived neighbourhoods.

The report identified nine roots: Poverty, racism, issues in the education system, family issues, lack of youth voice, lack of economic opportunity for youth, issues in the justice system, health, and community design. These factors have contributed to the social exclusion of racialized youth who reside in low income neighbourhoods. Social exclusion refers to the processes in which individuals or entire communities of people are systematically blocked from rights, opportunities and resources (e.g. housing, employment, healthcare, civic engagement, democratic participation and due process) that are normally available to members of society and which are key to social integration.

Socially excluded young people who lack access to abstract power (i.e. authority in the workplace, wealth and financial power, power derived from status or what I call professions and possessions), can seek alternatives sources of power, such as power over peers, in sometimes physical or violent ways.

What has been lacking from the discussion of the roots of youth violence is the question of social and political agency. We should no longer speak of at-risk youth unless we also speak of the people, institutions, social and economic forces putting them ‘at-risk’. There are no marginalized groups without something or someone doing the marginalizing, there is no oppressed without oppression, no exclusion without something or someone doing the excluding. We need a relational approach to power, violence, crime and social exclusion.

As social scientist Philip Bourgois has said, “There is a demonstrated tendency for the socially excluded to direct their brutality against themselves and their immediate community rather than against their structural oppression. Toronto-based community worker and hip hop artist J Wyze puts it like this, “You swing at what you can reach”.

For those without hope and opportunity, a destructive nihilism puts them, their peers and their community at risk. And yet while the frustration, alienation and anger permeating the lives of socially-excluded young people is the raw material for self-destructive violence and violence against community, as the history of political organizing suggests it is also the raw material for progressive movements for social change.

The state, whether in the form of the criminal justice system or the social welfare state, does not



have an investment in organizing socially-excluded young people for progressive social change, to challenge the economic and social violence from above that in part produces the horizontal violence between the socially-excluded themselves. This, alas, is up to those people, organizations and movements committed to social justice and radical social change.

Simon Black is a doctoral candidate at York University, and a freelance writer published regularly in the Toronto Star and in Tough Times. He is a member of Peel Poverty Action Group

Homeless: The Video

Spaces and Places: Uncovering Homelessness in the Region of Peel is a 15-minute DVD in which homeless people describe their experiences. A team from Peel Poverty Action Group including a once-homeless person, will show the video to a group on request. There is no charge.

Email ppagactiongroup@gmail.com to book a showing. Allow about 45 minutes for the video and discussion.

The video was made by a team from York University, in cooperation with the Social Planning Council of Peel, financed by a grant from the Ontario Trillium Foundation.

Download: <http://ppag.wordpress.com/spaces-and-places-video/>

Nailing a home of your own

NO DOWNPAYMENT, INTEREST-FREE MORTGAGE



How does an interest-free mortgage sound to you? Like something that makes a home possible?

Habitat for Humanity is in the business of providing houses that people can afford. It puts up the building, negotiates the mortgage, and finds the purchaser.

A branch of Habitat is at work in the Brampton and Caledon area, building two homes on Hoskins Square, Brampton, with plans to start an 18-home project on Torbram Road later this year. In 2012, the local Habitat group launched a campaign to build 36 homes in 10 years and they are on their way.

Construction workers are mostly volunteers, including members of the family that will eventually live in one of the homes. It's called "sweat equity," and requires a family to put in 500 volunteer hours. It keeps the costs down, and some family members learn a new skill with training from professionals working for Habitat.

Volunteers come from various places. Genworth is a mortgage insurance company that sends staff to Habitat for a few days of team-building and a change from being gurus in information technology. Other

firms that provide workers: BDO (a resource company), Gordon Food Services; Whirlpool Canada; EOne; RBC; cities of Brampton and Mississauga.

Men and women work together on Habitat projects. Women cut wood, drive nails, move around on scaffolding, operate a jackhammer.

"It makes you a well-rounded person," says Ana Penacho, a co-op student from St. Edmund Campion Catholic Secondary School, "and you don't have to rely on men."

Cecilia Carbonelli is a vice-president governing info-tech at Genworth, and she points out: "Genworth is here to give back and give back heart to the community. Housing is first. Everybody needs a warm place to stay."

Elsa Cabral also works at Genworth, and notes: "I've always been afraid of power tools, but now I've had a chance to use a table saw, a skilsaw, a drill... they are not so scary, and I feel empowered."

Habitat for Humanity will receive \$4.5m from Peel Region to build 50 homes over the next five years.

Check the website at www.habitatbrampton.com or email info@habitatbrampton.com

1. Linda Zammit digs a hole with a jackhammer watched by Francisco Andrade who works in IT at Genworth, as does Cecilia Carbonelli, while Ziad Haddad is a co-op student from St. Edmund Campion School. (*Tough Times photo*)
2. Elsa Cabral tries her hand at driving screws at a Habitat for Humanity site on Hoskins Square, Brampton. Elsa's regular workplace is an office. But there's more fresh air on a building site. (*Tough Times photo*)
3. You need safety gloves when using a table saw, as Cecilia Carbonelli knows from her work helping build a house for Habitat for Humanity. Watched by high school students Emily Pacheco and Ana Penacho, Carbonelli is a vice-president of IT at Genworth Canada. (*Tough Times photo*)

Advertisements

DON'T GO HUNGRY

If you are struggling to make ends meet, have to choose between paying rent or buying food, can't afford formula for your baby, or have more bills than income ... The Mississauga Food Bank is here to help you.

Anyone in need and living in Mississauga is eligible to use a neighbourhood food bank or other food program regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race or immigration status.

Visit www.themississaugafoodbank.org/getfood or phone us at 905-270-5589 to find the food program closest to you.



Join us and celebrate!
Pride March and Community Fair
July 28, 2013: 1 - 5 pm
Mississauga Celebration Square

part of Pride Week in Peel 2013 (July 19-28)
 Celebrating LGBTQ2S* communities with our allies
 in Peel! www.prideweekinpeel.ca

**Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Questioning, 2 Spirit*

Peel on parade with labour

Whoops!

The City of Brampton is rushing to fix a glitch! When the Milestones of Labour monument to workers killed or injured in the workplace was unveiled recently, the pathway to it had an eight-inch curb that no wheelchair could surmount. The City, which

received a recognition award under the 2012 Excellence Canada – Ontario Accessibility Awards Program, will have the curb shaved before the end of June, thanks to quick work by Coun. Sandra Hames, who serves on Brampton's accessibility advisory committee.



DONORS

Among donors of goods and services to the Monuments of Labour are:

Aecon Construction; Owen Sound Ledgerock; Canadian Masonry School/Ontario Masonry Training Centre; Hanson (Canada) Brick; Humber College School of Landscape Architecture; Super Wide Connection; Lafarge Canada Inc; Mattamy Homes; Allstone Quarries Prod. Inc; Daubois Inc; Air Liquide; Ironworkers Local 721; Ontario Building Trades Council; Battlefield Equipment Rentals; Bob Lackey, Candevcon Engineering Services; John Cutrazzola, Inzola Construction; Strybos Associates – Landscape Architectural drawings; CBM; Downsvlew Landscaping; LiUNA Local 506; Painters and Allied Trades District 46; Strada Aggregates; Brampton Home Depot North; Brampton Home Depot South; Operating Engineers Local 793; Great North Landscape Products; Bantrel; Superwide Connection Inc.; Barney Lawrence Legal Services; Boeing Canada; Air Liquide; Ontario Building Trades Council; Barney Lawrence Legal Services; City of Brampton; City of Mississauga.

Among union organizations contributing:

Canadian Auto Workers national; CAW Retired Workers; United Steelworkers of America national; Amalgamated Transit Union Canadian Council; United Food and Commercial Workers; International Workers Association; Canadian Labour Congress; Workers Health and Safety Centre; Ontario Federation of Labour; USWA District 6, Peel/Halton; Communications, Energy and Paper Workers Ontario Region; Brampton-Mississauga and District Labour Council, and labour councils across Canada including Sault Ste. Marie, Nanaimo, Durham District, Campbell River, Stratford District, Prince George, Powell River, Chatham District, Niagara Regional, North Bay, Orangeville.

Union locals who gave to the monument:

CEP 26, CUPE 831, CUPE 1989, CAW 1000, UA 787, USW 9403, USW 6709, USW 7536, CAW 4457, OPSEU 277, CAW 2002, GCIU (Graphics Communication International Union) 100-M, Machinists 1022, Machinists 901, Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario, Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation District 19; Ontario English Catholic Teachers Association, Office and Professional Employees International Union 343, Ontario Nurses Association, Labour Community Services, Labour Action Centre, International Association of Fire Fighters, Machinists 1922, Machinists 2113, Machinists 717.

Individuals who gave:

Motilall Sarjoo, Jim McDowell, Patrick Williams, Vishnu Roche, John McCloskey, Travis Lanalamphi, Fabio Gazzola, Cathy Davis, Eugene Feltham, Mark Kier, Penny McCabe, Andrew Ward, Daniel Boone, Bill Duff, Doug Wilcox, R. G. Lawrence.

Left off the list? Email toughtimestabld@gmail.com



1. A piper leads the police and hundreds more at the unveiling of the Milestones of Labour Monument to Workers Killed or Injured in the Workplace. (Tough Times photo by Sharon Sohal)
2. Delvon Greene, executive member of the Service Employees International Union, leads the flag party for Local 1. (Tough Times photo)
3. Injured worker Eugene Feltham is framed in the archway at the unveiling of the Milestones of Labour Monument in Brampton. (Tough Times photo by Ryan Gurcharn)

Advertisement

PEEL TRANSITIONS
Building capacity to better serve trans, gender variant and gender non-conforming communities

Peel Transitions is a NEW Collaborative project focused on trans* inclusion in Peel!

Collaborative members are: Associated Youth Services of Peel, Bramalea Community Health Centre, East Mississauga Community Health Centre (lead) and Peel HIV/AIDS Network.

If you are a trans* community member, please participate in our survey, by June 15th - online at www.surveymonkey.com/s/peeltransitionssurvey. Want to find out more or get involved? www.peeltransitions.ca | peeltransitions@gmail.com

We are using the term trans to include, but not be limited to, people who identify as trans, transgender, transsexual, 2 Spirit, Cross-dresser, genderqueer, genderfluid, people who have transitioned and who identify as men or women, people whose felt gender is different (or more nuanced) than the one expected of someone of the sex they were assigned at birth, people who feel they do not fit into any societal labels around gender, and more!*

On-again, off-again non-jobs

Many residents of Peel have jobs that are part-time, only a few hours a week, temporary, no benefits, and that don't pay enough to support a family. It's called precarious employment, and it's coming to your neighbours and maybe you.

Brampton resident Grace-Edward Galabuzi, a professor at Ryerson University, is leading research to find out what "precarity" does to you and your family. Does it help or hinder being or staying together and taking care of the kids? Does it prevent your getting a mortgage? How do recent immigrants cope?

Research has included asking a few precariously-employed people in two Peel neighbourhoods to take photos that capture aspects of precarity, and to explain their choice of subject.

FLYERS WANT YOU TO BUY

Scanning store flyers to look for the lowest sale prices on items we like or need, is one way in which we try to reduce expenditure. My inability to find or secure well-paying, stable employment affects my whole family. We cannot afford treats when the kids ask for them. We cannot commit to their requests to participate in extra-curricular activities or summer camps. Other families are experiencing similar challenges.

BUYING INTO POVERTY

A newly-constructed neighbourhood, with beautiful houses from the view point of an outsider.



The realities behind those doors are extreme poverty and hardship due to precarious employment. Residents struggle every month to pay their mortgages, home and car insurances, property tax and other bills. We came to Canada with big dreams hoping for a better life. We started working from low and worked hard to high in terms of position, pay and lifestyle, then started again from scratch after losing my job. We had to relocate. We have seen many neighbourhood kids engage in criminal activities such as buying cheap gas from a dealer for resale, cashing cheques for a stranger and selling stolen items just for a few dollars. I thought of renting out my basement but lack money to renovate and it is illegal in some parts of the City.

BUY AND BUY, BUT CHEAPLY

When we get a job, we don't make enough for ne-



cessities. We return to school to gain a better opportunity, yet we are still having difficulty finding a job. It had us thinking that maybe company and colleges/university are working together to get more money from us, because even for simple jobs, companies want you to have degree/diploma and when you finish and get a job sometimes it won't even pay rent much less to pay back OSAP.

Where does that leave those that are trying to ease out of the rut they are in; to get out and each time they are pushed back down? It is an unfair society we are living in.

PAYDAY LOANS

The changes that I have recently noticed are lots of

Payday Loans signs, employment agencies, many adults are going back to school, lots of young people who had recently moved out from families are returning home because of the high cost of rent and the low wages.

Moreover, shared accommodation has increased, people are frustrated, sad and looking hopeless. I have also noticed more people are smoking, drinking and just hanging around, because there is not much to do and I guess it is due to the fact that they have no money to go anywhere.

A block away, there are expensive condos being built. The new condo has pushed the cost of rent up in the neighbourhood, making it impossible for people who are paying market rents. They need to build more affordable housing,

We're all diverse together

At least half Peel's population are immigrants, many of us people of colour. Newcomers can feel excluded from opportunities at work and at leisure, so several organizations want to ensure that exclusion doesn't happen.

Among the groups is the Regional Diversity Roundtable (RDR) which has produced a Diversity and Inclusion Charter of Peel, in line with Canada's federal and Ontario's provincial legislation, including human rights.

Policies and practices affecting equity and inclusion are to be reviewed regularly; equal access to information, services, opportunities, is mandated; inclusive leaders and "change champions" are to be supported; Peel's diversity is to be recognized and celebrated, and resources – including money – are to help make equity and inclusion happen.

Enjoying the fun at the launch of the Regional Diversity Roundtable Charter. From left, Huda Abbas, MIAG; unidentified; Tina Hynes; Megan Richardson; Catherine Carreiro; Surit Dey; Paula DeCoito. (Tough Times photo)



CJMR 1320

Rangla Punjab, a show on radio station CJMR-1320, appealed for funds for Knights Table, Peel Region's only 365-days-a-year soup kitchen back in February – and money is still coming in.

Rangla Punjab has broadcast news in Punjabi, Hindi, and English since 1997.

Anju Sikka, co-host, with Dilbag Singh Chawla, says "Rangla Punjab is actively involved in social and political events happening in the community, and is also a leader for fundraising for projects"

So she invited Annie Bynoe, Paul Dean, and Upendra Pai to talk about Knights Table and to tell listeners about Knight's Table's work with people who are homeless, cash-poor and struggling.

Tough Times was there too, with editor Edna Toth talking about Peel's only social justice newspaper, and the paper's parent, Peel Poverty Action Group.



Anju Sikka, at the mike, with Annie Bynoe and Paul Dean, during an appeal for funds for Knights Table. Sikka and Dilbag Chawla helped raise funds for Brampton soup kitchen Knights Table, where Bynoe is executive director and Dean is a volunteer. (Tough Times photo)



Upendra Pai, member of Knights Table board, took part in an appeal for funds sponsored by CJMR-1320 (Tough Times photo)

Mississauga Furniture Bank

The Mississauga Furniture Bank (MFB) is a registered charity whose mandate is to recycle new and gently used household furnishings to people who need them, including women and children, refugees and people who have been homeless.

It picks up gifts of furniture in good condition, cleans and performs minor repairs, and delivers to the home. On the job since 2010, the furniture bank is staffed mostly by volunteers, with professional movers working for a nominal fee. Donors receive a charitable receipt for the fair market value of the furniture.

Shelters, social service agencies, and refugee centres referring people to the furniture bank, include: The Compass, Lakeshore Community Outreach Centre, Newcomer Centre of Peel, Vita Manor, The Dam, Armagh House, The Lakeshore Corridor Community Team, The Salvation Army Peel Region Residential Service, Peel Children's Aid, Trillium Health Centre – Community Mental Health, and Region of Peel Outreach Program – CMHA Peel.



Reno plan under repair

Does your house need repairs, upgrades, renovations but you don't have the money? The Region of Peel offered help, but so many people asked for it that the Region can't take any more calls for 2013.

Homeowners with household income of \$50,000 a year or less could get up to \$16,000 for major work, or up to \$3,500 for minor improvements.

The changes must be needed to enable residents to stay in their own homes, and could include electrical, plumbing, windows, insulation upgrades, fire safety, ramps and grab bars, and more. If your home is worth \$447,000, you don't qualify.

Peel Renovates can be reached at 905-791-7800, ext. 3535 -- but don't call until 2014.

PICNIC FOR ADULT SURVIVORS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The second annual picnic for adult survivors of child sexual abuse takes place from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Saturday, 20 July, 2013, in the grounds of the recreation centre at 30 Loafer's Lake Lane, Brampton. Organizer Linda Beaudoin promises balloon launch, BBQ, art, poetry, free self-help books, candlelight vigil. No charge to attend.



Words from the street

Ontario Disability Support Program

The Public Guardian has my money from Ontario Disability Support Program. He makes sure my rent is paid, and then I get \$50 a week. He puts money into my bank account, and makes sure I get all my tax benefits.

Wade, at The Compass in Port Credit

Work in Calgary

I'm a roofer, I'm 57, and I can't work the way I used to. I've paid taxes all my life, but Ontario Works won't give me a bus pass to find work in Peel. There's work in Calgary. But the bus fare is about \$200, it's a three-day journey, you've got to eat, and I need a place to

stay when I get there. Calgary doesn't want to give welfare to anybody when there's lots of work.

Brent at Knights Table, Brampton

NOTE: Greyhound's one-way fare Toronto to Calgary is \$186

A loan from OSAP

I'm starting school to become a dental assistant and I'll need a loan from OSAP. I didn't get past grade 10, but I'm 26 now and can enter the course as a mature student. A friend became a dental assistant, and there are lots of jobs. I'm off drugs. I want to see my son more often. He's five. I see him for an hour every two weeks.

Tammy at Knights Table, Brampton

Sixty six cents a day!

Inflation averaged 1.52% across Canada in 2012. At press time, the Ontario budget was still being discussed, including this idea: A one per cent increase for adults receiving Ontario Works (OW) or Ontario Disability Support (ODSP) benefits. So OW folk who are single will get another 66 cents a day, enough for a coffee every third day.

Even 1% is better than nothing, but our rent has gone up from \$1050 to \$1075, food prices are up and the three of us are all working, just to pay the rent.

George, lunching at St. Mina and St. Kyrellos Church, Mississauga

Low life

They treat homeless people like low life. Volunteer, former resident, at St. Leonard's Place Peel

Security

We were told to get rid of homeless people. We were not told to help them.

Qualified male nurse, two years in Canada with his family, laid off as a security guard two months ago.

Summer in the park

I spend summer in the park. Sleep in my clothes, leaning against a tree. Then I go to the rec centre for a shower. I get money by panhandling. People are never rude or disrespectful.

Young man at Knights Table

PURGATORY

In Purgatory I sit not knowing my fate
Will I be saved before it's too late
Locked away again in bars of steel
Hearts turn cold trying not to feel
Razor wire fence nearly twenty feet high
The hardest hearts will drop and cry
Day after day no end in sight
The kindest hearts will turn and fight
The lost and forgotten in an evil place
Missing from life without a trace
Grouped all as one their number no name
Hours of loneliness from a moment of fame
A prisoner then free the time spent alone
"He who hath not sin can cast the first stone"

I still cry at night but I smile in the day
For the years I lost in purgatory .. so grey
On Calvary's' cross he died for my sin
Now I must try to let the Lord in
Time can stand still in this prison type place
But there's no purgatory with the Lord's Good Grace

Chantal

Vanier Centre for Women, Milton

Will there really be a morning?

BY CHERYL YAREK

Life is difficult. Sometimes life is very difficult. When you suffer from poverty or a mental health issue, life is even harder, even more challenging. In fact, sometimes people lose their ability to cope. When you cannot cope, you are in crisis. I name this article in honour of Frances Farmer and her autobiography, "Will There Really Be a Morning?"

In my walks along Highway 10, I see suffering. One man held the horror of his situation so carefully etched over every inch of his face, I stopped walking and stood still recovering from his broken glance. Even his posture told the story of a spirit beaten. Another man passed me, his clothes worn and torn. I was compelled to reach out to him. "It's

very cold," I remarked, "Do you have money for a coffee?" "No, I don't," he replied. I reached in my purse and gave him a loonie, adding, "Wait, that won't buy you a coffee..." "There's a Tim Horton's across from where I live," he offered, "Coffee is \$1.35."

I gave him an additional dollar and felt reassured that he lived somewhere.

How do we treat other people? Are we considerate and thoughtful or do we react in cruel and unkind ways? Since my breakdown of 1984, my pet peeve is the mocking of suffering. It goes on all the time.

If you resort to these tactics, you need to accept possible negative consequences and part of the

responsibility.

The behavior of everyone -not just people suffering- has outcomes. Let's have the resources ready to support those whose vulnerability has met circumstance and let's try to be kind. In the depth of despair, all humans turn inside themselves - in one way or another to ask - Will There Really Be a Morning?"

Where I work, they know I have a mental health issue.

In fact, they hired me on the ACT Team (an American model) BECAUSE of it. I have tried life, hiding my disability and I have tried life, admitting it. Life is MUCH better when you can be open and honest which, of course, is no surprise to most of us!

Whatever doesn't kill you ..

BY TODD FOSTER

I'd come upon a boy being beaten in the park by some other boys, and as I approached the group ran off, leaving a clutter of paper and binders and pens; an emptied backpack with Spider-Man on it.

Inconsolable, face red and huffing and puffing, nose bleeding and eyes watering. I'm picking up his homework and notebooks and science book, a handsome drawing in pencil of a man who could be his grandfather. The papers have been crushed in rock-salt and

snow-dirt, and looking at the hand-drawn portrait that he'd certainly spent time and effort on, I felt saddened myself; I shared some of his agony.

"Whatever doesn't kill you ..." I offered, with his backpack clumsy with its re-packed contents, like my clumsy offer of condolence. He was upset about his brother's I-phone, whom he assured me would kill him.

What I could have told him was that this will happen again in life, and it gets worse every time.

A wage you can live on

BY MOTILALL SARJOO | *President, Brampton-Mississauga and District Labour Council*

Over the years, the union movement has supported the idea of a minimum wage for every worker, especially those who are not members of unions. The minimum wage is the floor, and labour unions bring their members well above it. In Ontario, the minimum wage is \$10.25 an hour. Here in Peel, that is ridiculous.

You can't live on it. You can't raise a family on it, even with both parents working fulltime.

So labour is changing its target. We want a living wage, and we want all levels of government, and all types of employer, to sign on to it.

Minimum wage is not the same as a living wage – not by a lot.

A living wage is the hourly rate and the number of hours we need to work to provide housing, food, clothing, child care, and pay the utility bills.

Work on a living wage has already begun in several Ontario cities. They are



coming through with different numbers, but all of them well above that \$10.25.

For instance, Hamilton says that the living wage there is a minimum \$14.95 an hour. With both parents working 37.5 hours a week, the total annual income is \$58,305.

But that living wage rate doesn't include owning a home, saving for retire-

ment, paying down debt, or financing children's higher education.

Toronto was the target for a study by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, which found that \$16.60 an hour is necessary for survival; included in necessary expenses are shelter, food, clothing, telephone, insurance, internet, cable TV, transit (\$1,248) or vehicle (\$6,573), two weeks vacation, dinner and movie once a month, furniture, recreation, adult education at \$1,000 a year, and child care.

The City of Kingston has also taken a calculator to determine a living wage -- \$16.29 an hour, for a family of four, which, even with both parents working 37.5 hours a week, doesn't cover home ownership, retirement, post-secondary. But Kingston's Task Force on Poverty recommended that the city adopt the principle of a living wage for all employees.

Let's look at a living wage in Peel Region. How much should it be? What should it cover?

Then how will we go about persuading the various levels of government to adopt it, so that they deal only with agencies that pay a living wage to their employees?

How will we persuade employers that is in their interests to pay a living wage, so they don't waste time and money training workers who get sick through the stress of poverty or who jump for a better paid job. And point out to them, too, that better-paid workers have more money to spend on the goods the employer produces.

A living wage is more than money. It is the key to a better life for everybody in the area. It reduces health costs, cuts down the numbers of people who need social services, makes life safer, education easier.

Peel communities can't afford not to work towards a living wage.

Municipal councils should think about adopting a living wage policy -- including the contractors who tender for city work. And contractors whose workers don't get a living wage should be weeded out.

Rebates: YOU will pay (from page 1)

What did it cost? A mere \$775 total for 12 donors in Whitby; \$3,680,820 so far for 14,051 donors in Toronto, plus about 46 months of staff time; Markham doled out \$375,000 plus \$11,541 administration; in Vaughan, rebates totaled \$61,717, and administration \$28,279; Oakville dished out \$78,105 in rebates plus \$27,551 in administration.

The twist in the rebate program is that the rebates and the costs of administration come from property taxes, paid by all homeowners whether they vote or not, whether they support a candidate or not.

Other twists as far as the figures above are concerned: each municipality has its own formula for assessing rebates and deciding who is eligible to receive them. All municipalities surveyed ruled out rebates to corporations and unions; all would rebate cash donations, not goods and services; some stated restrictions on relatives of a candidate; Toronto and Markham make a partial pay-back on donations from any resident of Ontario, while others restrict rebates to residents of the municipality.

Here's some detail:

Oakville ratepayers pick up the tab for 50% of contributions over \$100;

Ajax and Whitby offer 75% rebate of

amounts between \$25 and \$100, plus 50% of amounts over \$100, to a maximum of \$150.

Toronto ratepayers pay out 75% of the total contribution for amounts between \$25 and \$300, and for donations between \$301 and \$1,000 a rebate of \$225 plus 50% of amounts over \$300, with lower percentage rebates for larger gifts, maximum rebate is \$1,000. Giving is limited to \$750 from any one donor to any one candidate, but some donors give to several candidates.

Markham rebates 75% of the total contribution of \$50 - \$300, with 50% rebate amounts beyond the \$300 mark, with a maximum rebate of \$350.

Vaughan offers 75% of total contribution over \$50, with a maximum rebate of \$150.

PPAG takes the position that rebates are a cost to all property taxpayers, and not just for the money rebated, but for administration as well. City staff could only guess at what the cost might be in Mississauga.

Voter turnout is subject to many variables, from political disagreements to the weather.

None of the evidence provided indicates that more people voted because of rebates.

ATTENTION ALL AGENCIES!

AGENCIES \$30per PARKING SPACE

Cash/Money Orders ONLY

**No registration will be done on the day of the Sale!!*

Connect with Malton residents!

Outreach for your agency in a cost-effective way!

MALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Malton-Wide COMMUNITY SALE

DEALS! DEALS! DEALS!

Saturday, June 15, 2013
7:00 am to 3:00 pm

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church Parking Lot
[Corner of Morning Star Dr. & Darcel Ave.]

More Info Contact Lynette
Malton Neighbourhood Services
3540 Morning Star Drive
Mississauga, ON L4T 1Y2
905.677.6270

United Way Peel Region

MALTON NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

Fun way to change the world

Basketball was a big attraction along with a firetruck, face-painting, box decorating, and more, at an afternoon of fun at Sir Winston Churchill Public School.

The event billed as Change The World: One Community at a Time, was organized by Volunteer MBC, the school, The Bridge, Change the World, with other organizations participating. Proceeds of a bake sale go to the school's Grade 8 graduation.

Photo #1: Mia Fries, age three, daughter of Helder and Diana, looks right at home inspecting the inside of a Brampton Fire Service truck. (Tough Times photo)



Photo #2: Kobe Miller, age 13 months, is not too sure about those big boots. The boots are made for firefighters. (Tough Times photo)



Photo #3: Two basketballs, and both made the basket! Tijeane Josephs (left) and Marquiel Gray both shot and both scored. (Tough Times photo)



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE

Knights Table *Feeding Our Future*

Go87
MARK & JEM
IN THE MORNING!

Go87 FM Radio Personalities
Mark Strong & Jemini - Masters Of Ceremony

**1ST ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER,
ENTERTAINMENT & SILENT AUCTION**

DATE: Friday June 7th, 2013
LOCATION: Speranza Banquet Hall
510 Deerhurst Drive, Brampton, ON L6T 5H9
COCKTAILS: 6:00 pm
DINNER: 7:00 pm

TICKET: \$125
TABLE: \$850 (8 guests per table)

Ticket Info: Call **416-650-7839** or email events@knightstable.org
Sponsorship packages/opportunities available call **905-454-8725**
www.knightstable.org

Knights Table *Feeding Our Future*

AN AMAZING EVENING FILLED WITH
Entertainment, Guest Speakers & Surprises!

Nema Children's Choir

16 band choir touring from Kampala, Uganda. The children are all orphans or victims of adverse poverty due to HIV aids, and range in ages from 9-15 years. The consequences of living in dire poverty stripped many of the children of their innocence, dignity and hope. These impoverished children roamed the streets searching for food or ate out of dumpsters. The children are excited to be in Canada and performing at the Feeding our Future Gala.